

From: Wesley Harrell
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 4:13pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my opinion regarding the proposed Microsoft settlement. In short, I disagree with the provisions of the settlement, and I believe the current proposal lacks any real punishment to a company that has been found guilty in the past, as well as in the present case, and if unchecked will act in a similar manner in the future. A just settlement would include, but are not limited to, some of the items I list below.

1. Any remedy seeking to prevent an extension of Microsoft's monopoly must place Microsoft products as extra-cost options in the purchase of new computers, so that the user who does not wish to purchase them is not forced to do so. This means that for the price differential between a new computer with Microsoft software and one without, a computer seller must offer the software without the computer. Only then could competition come to exist in a meaningful way.
2. The specifications of Microsoft's present and future document file formats must be made public, so that documents created in Microsoft applications may be read by programs from other makers, on Microsoft's or other operating systems. This is in addition to opening the Windows application program interface, which is already part of the proposed settlement.
3. Any Microsoft networking protocols must be published in full and approved by an independent network protocol body. This would prevent Microsoft from seizing de facto control of the Internet.
4. No settlement should include free Microsoft software to schools, or other needy organizations. This does nothing to decrease Microsoft's control over the computer market, and in fact increases their market share.

Regards,

Wesley Harrell
232 NW 4th Ave
Gainesville, FL 32601